

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

### I.—THE SENSE OF SMELL IN TIGERS

With reference to Mr. Meston's letter in the April 1946 number of the *Journal*, the following experience may be of interest although it does not give a definite answer to the question. I have shot a number of tigers and many leopards, and only in this one case, that of a tiger, have I noticed any evidence of a sense of smell in these animals.

This happened in December 1938 in the Mangaldai district of Assam. This tiger had killed a cow in a bamboo plantation and my shikar chair was put up in the centre of a thick clump of bamboos, very well concealed, and about ten feet high. The tiger came along very noisily about 8 p.m., strode up and down and round about for a short time, came noisily up to the foot of my bamboo clump, sniffed very loudly about half a dozen times, and then cleared right off, also very noisily, never having gone anywhere near the kill. I do not think it could possibly have seen or heard me.

I shot this same animal about a week later over another kill, which was on open ground. I sat this time on a small platform constructed inside the edge of *Eupatorium* or 'giant *Ageratum*' scrub jungle, well concealed by *Eupatorium* bound all round the platform which was about three feet above ground. This time he was much closer than previously, but showed no signs of scenting me and was shot at a range of about fifteen feet, as he stood on a slight ridge overlooking his kill and the open country. Weather conditions and time of arrival appeared much the same as before.

I knew this to be the same animal as he was one of three—two tigresses and this tiger—having come into the garden and killed nearly one hundred head of cattle. The two tigresses were shot first, one over a kill, and the other stalked and shot in a river pool, and the tiger as described, the last of the lot and that finished the destruction.

Not very satisfactory, but there you are.

TEOK T. E.,  
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ASSAM.

T. E. H. SMITH.

28th October, 1946.

[Mr. R. C. Morris's comments on Mr. Smith's note are of interest. He writes:—

'The experience described in the second para of this letter exactly bears out my views that a tiger, and a panther for that matter, has a hound (ground) sense of smell only but I do not believe that they have a 'winding' sense of smell as deer, antelope,